

SENATOR DeCAMP: Okay, Senator Carsten, good question. It is not a regulatory bill but a giving of a rights bill, identifying a right so, yes, indeed, this comes into question or brings into play the question of mineral rights and values and so on and so forth. Until we finally even establish that the concept exists, that the right exists, we can't really develop it or do anything with it.

SENATOR CARSTEN: But in the event that does occur, does happen, actually, then there will have to be a determination of the value of that and that would be regarded as a mineral right the same as others?

SENATOR DeCAMP: Yes, sir.

SENATOR CARSTEN: Thank you, sir.

PRESIDENT: The Chair recognizes Senator Beutler.

SENATOR BEUTLER: Senator DeCamp, could you just tell us briefly where these resources are? What areas of the state we're talking about with regard to the use of the water for this purpose?

SENATOR DeCAMP: Okay. The western one-third geographically of Nebraska. In other words, it would include the entire panhandle and would go east from there, depending upon what the geological studies show, would go east from there. As I understand, maybe even another...it could go up to within forty or fifty miles of Grand Island. That is how far east it theoretically could go, but basically they're talking absolutely about the western one-third of the state where they do have wells, evidence that it could be used, geothermal energy.

SENATOR BEUTLER: Thank you.

PRESIDENT: You have about a minute left on the whole bill, just for your information. Senator Remmers wants to speak yet.

SENATOR REMMERS: I wanted to make a few comments, Mr. Speaker, but I don't want to hold up the bill and so I'll forego those comments.

PRESIDENT: Okay, thank you. Senator DeCamp, do you want to take a vote then on the committee amendment?

SENATOR DeCAMP: Mr. President, if we don't take a vote, if we don't get it moved we're going to delay geothermal development another year. We've already delayed it one.